

Gwynedd Education Department

Frequently Asked Questions 25 August 2020

The following is a list of frequently asked questions and answers for parents/guardians when preparing to send their children back to school from September onwards.

Is my child expected to attend school from September onwards?

Yes, unless they are self-isolating or ill.

Do I have to be invited to send my child to school?

Yes, until 14 September.

What will my child need to bring with them to school?

Your child will need to bring the following:

- Their own water bottle
- Their own pencil case

They will not be able to share their resources with other children or the staff.

Cleaning

How will the school be cleaned once it is reopened?

The school will be cleaned during the day by cleaners who will have been purposefully trained. The cleaners will give particular attention to places where the children and staff touch regularly while always following the cleaning protocols.

The authority will provide additional resources to the schools in response to the additional cleaning requirements.

Do we expect pupils to clean their workspace?

Pupils are expected to take reasonable steps to ensure that the work environment is kept as clean as possible. When appropriate (and according to their age/development), pupils may be encouraged to clean their personal spaces themselves, for example, by giving them wipes to use in their part of the room (in secondary schools).

The wipes/suitable cleaning equipment will be provided to the classrooms along with brief guidelines.

Toilets

How often will the school toilets be cleaned?

The toilets will be cleaned after break time and lunch time and at the end of every day.

Safeguarding my Child

What measures will be in place to safeguard my child?

There are a number of measures in place to safeguard your child. Some of the measures are as follows;

- Every school will have a specified isolating room, should a child or member of staff start to feel ill during the day.
- Everyone may not have break and lunch times at the same time.
- Communal areas will be cleaned regularly.
- Schools will be cleaned thoroughly every night.
- There will be clear signs around the school emphasising the importance of hand-washing, hygiene and social distancing.

Bear in mind that every school site is different and every school will be implementing different measures e.g. the drop-off location will vary from school to school / some schools will have one-way systems etc.

Every school will have its own gradual re-opening scheme; every school will have held site meetings and they will be recognised by the Local Authority. In addition, every school will have its own Risk Assessment.

Who ensures that risk assessments are suitable and up to standard?

Gwynedd Council's Corporate Health and Safety Team and Education Department will check the quality of the risk assessments.

General

Do pupils have to wear a school uniform?

This will vary from school to school for a while; however, the aim is for every pupil to wear school uniform in due course.

Will there be different arrangements at the start and end of the day when children enter the school building?

Yes. The school will have clearly marked out the waiting areas (e.g. by using signs, bollards or tape) to safeguard pupils who are waiting to enter the building.

The marks will indicate how the pupils and their parents/carers can maintain safe social distancing.

Is there any restriction regarding who can accompany a child to school / collect a child from school?

Yes, only one parent/guardian.

If I wanted to discuss a specific matter with the school could I have a face to face meeting with school staff?

No. The local authority recommends that you should contact the school initially by telephone. If you wish to have a further meeting we suggest for now that this should be a virtual meeting.

How should schools manage break times?

Staff will be available to supervise your child every break and lunch-time. Children will be expected to observe social distancing in secondary schools.

Hand sanitiser will be available at each entrance to ensure that pupils can sanitise their hands when they exit and re-enter the school building.

Equipment on the school yard will be cleaned before different groups use it.

What if my child requires first aid during the day?

School staff will provide first aid in the usual way. However, they will wear specific protective equipment.

Specific guidance regarding First Aid has already been shared with each school

What if a child becomes ill during the school day?

Parents will be expected to collect their child from school, we will not provide transport.

School Dinner

Will school meals be available?

Yes.

If I choose to provide a lunch-box for my child, are there rules regarding what should be put in a lunch-box?

Yes. A lunch-box should be prepared that a member of staff will not be needed to assist children to open it or to help them to open its contents. Plastic packets should be avoided that children, especially young children, cannot open.

In accordance with general school guidance a nutritious lunch-box should be prepared avoiding items that may lead to children choking, such as grapes.

Will there be breakfast clubs?

This may vary from school to school, but generally, yes.